



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CHARTER SCHOOLS ADVOCACY DAY

- WHEREAS: Charter schools are tuition-free public schools designed to increase student achievement through the implementation of innovative academic and organizational programs; and
- WHEREAS: The Charter Schools Act of 1998, which passed 20 years ago, allowed for the creation of start-up charter schools and charter schools by the local boards of education; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Charter Schools Amendment of 2012 permitted the State Board of Education to create public state charter schools; and
- WHEREAS: As autonomous public schools, charter schools are subject to high standards of accountability and receive flexibility from certain state and local rules and regulations; and
- WHEREAS: Charter schools have fair and open enrollment procedures and serve all student populations, including students with disabilities and English language learners; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia's 113 charter schools serve more than 86,500 students across the state. These institutions provide opportunities for student success by promoting competition, innovation and creativity, while encouraging strong parental involvement; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes organizations such as the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) that are dedicated to supporting charter schools throughout our state; and
- WHEREAS: As the membership organization for Georgia's charter school developers, operators and petitioners, GCSA advocates for all of Georgia's public charter schools; and
- WHEREAS: GCSA provides guidance and technical assistance for establishing new charter schools, offers professional development opportunities for school leaders and teachers, and builds capacity for charter school leadership through the GaTAPP and CharterLeader programs; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is committed to providing all citizens with greater educational options as well as true local flexibility to ensure that every student is afforded a strong academic foundation to succeed in the classroom of today and workforce of the future; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 14, 2018, as CHARTER SCHOOLS ADVOCACY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Ritty*

CHIEF OF STAFF